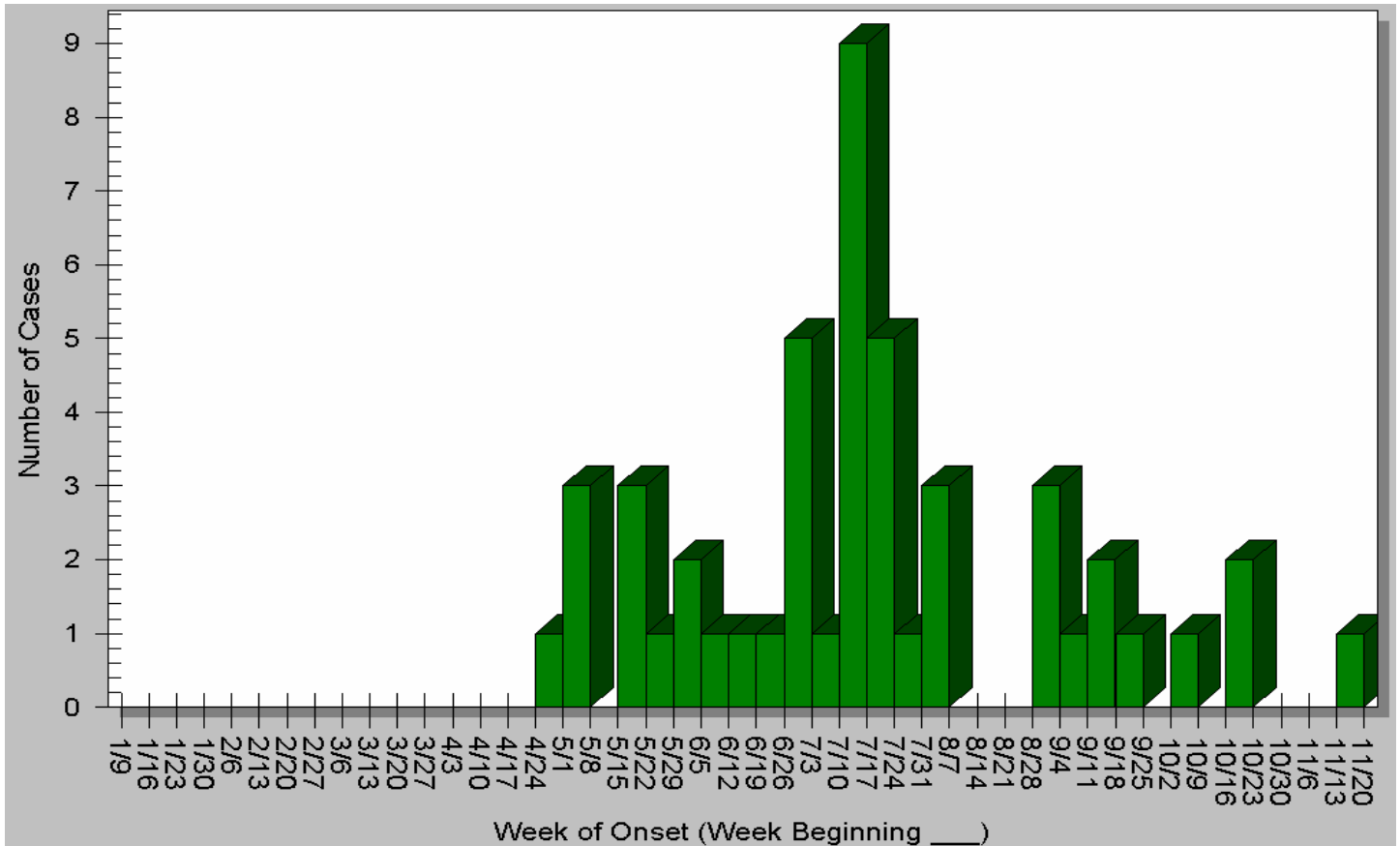




## Pertussis Outbreak Coconino County 2005

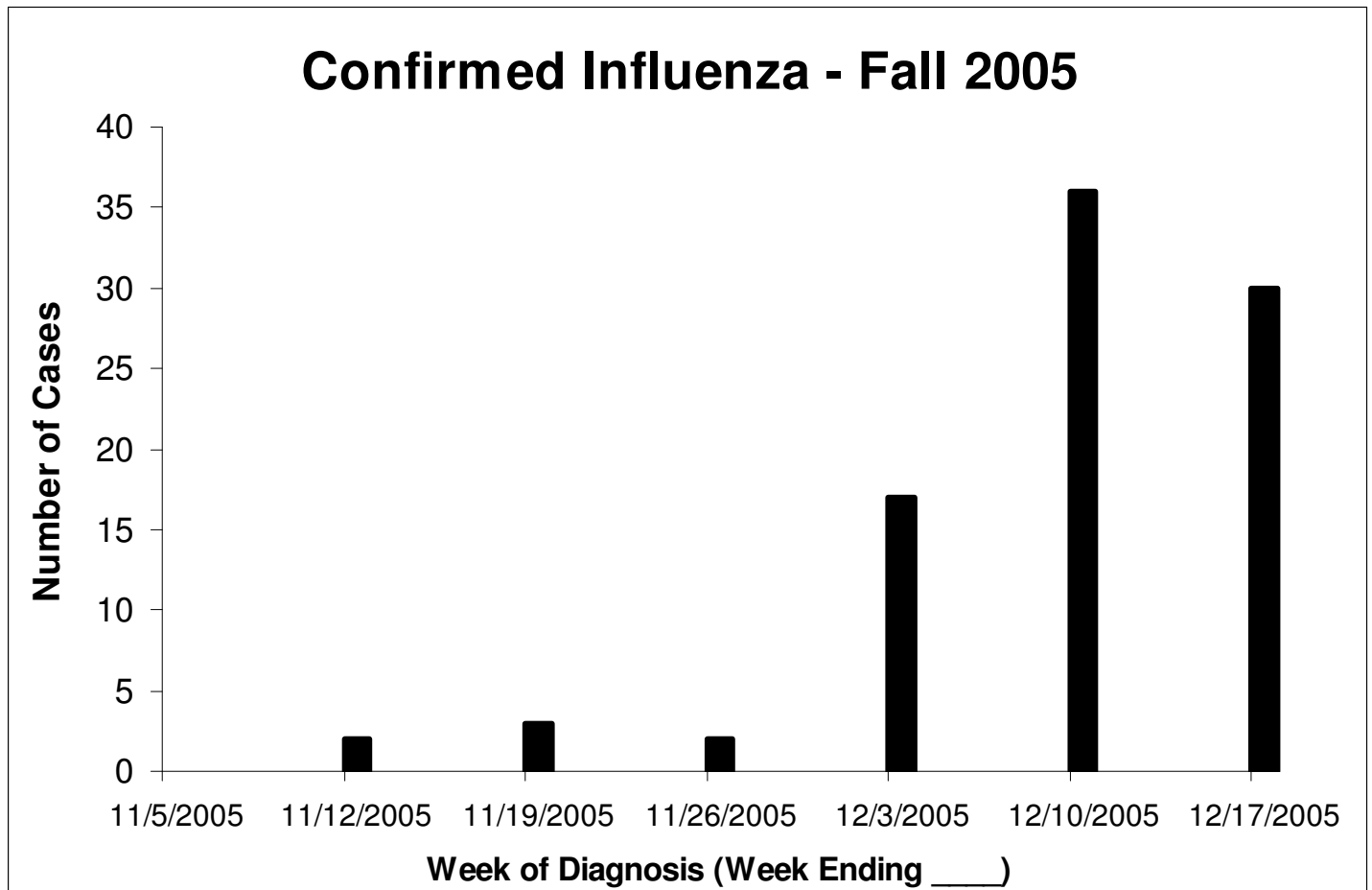


Pertussis (whooping cough) is a persistent respiratory illness characterized by coughing fits. Vomiting and/or a "whooping" sound may occur after coughing. Earlier this year, the State of Arizona declared a statewide pertussis outbreak. In Coconino County, 55 pertussis cases were diagnosed during 2005 (As of 12/15/2005). This is very unusual because Coconino County typically has only about five cases per year. Moreover, we do not usually see cases of pertussis in the summer months. The outbreak peaked in July, and has diminished since then. We expect at least a few more cases to occur through the winter months. Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to perform pertussis cultures on all patients suspected of having pertussis. This test is the only method available to confirm the diagnosis. The State Health Laboratory will provide this test free of charge. Pertussis should be considered as a possible diagnosis in patients who have had a cough for more than two weeks. Healthcare providers are required to report suspected and confirmed cases to Coconino County Health Department ((928) 522-7920).

Vaccination is very important to the control of this outbreak and future cases of pertussis. Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) offers pertussis vaccine for children and adults. The vaccine is free for children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Vaccination is especially important for anyone who lives with infants less than one year old. Children of this age are at increased risk of complications and death from pertussis. Adolescents and adults often have very mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, but they can still spread the infection to others, including younger children. Vaccine is available at no charge for parents, grandparents, or caregivers who bring an infant to the clinic for vaccination. Vaccine is also available for other adults for a fee. CCHD offers vaccination clinics in Flagstaff on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, or to make an appointment, call CCHD at (928) 522-7920.



## Influenza Arrives in Coconino County



The first confirmed case of influenza was diagnosed in the Tuba City area on November 9. A total of 90 cases have been diagnosed so far in Coconino County (through 12/17/2005). Thirty-eight (38) cases occurred in the Page area, fifteen (15) in the Tuba City area, and twenty (20) in the Flagstaff area. An additional seventeen (17) cases were diagnosed in Flagstaff area clinics, but residence information was not reported. Forty-six (46) cases were caused by influenza A virus, and forty-four (44) cases were of unknown type.

The flu season typically peaks in January or February and continues into the early spring. Influenza causes about 36,000 deaths per year in the United States. Vaccination against influenza is the best way to prevent the illness. Coconino County Health Department still has flu vaccine available. CCHD offers vaccination clinics in Flagstaff on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, or to make an appointment, call CCHD at 522-7920.

---

Contact Information: Michael Callahan, Epidemiologist, (928) 522-7842  
Linus Nienstadt, Communicable Disease Program Coordinator, (928) 522-7892